

FACT SHEET



Madison County Mines Site Fredericktown, Missouri

January 1999

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 is preparing to begin further assessment of lead contamination in Madison County, Missouri, near the city of Fredericktown. Investigations conducted by EPA in 1995 detected elevated levels of lead in mine tailings deposits found in the Madison County. Additional investigations are being conducted to determine the extent of lead contamination associated with the mine tailings and the public health risk and environmental risk posed by these tailings. The assessment is being conducted based on extensive lead contamination found in other nearby mining communities. EPA is encouraging Madison County residents to have their children's blood-lead levels sampled by the Madison County Health Department, free of charge. Residents are welcome to contact the Madison County Health Department at (573) 783-2747, to schedule an appointment.

BACKGROUND

The Madison County Mines Site is located in southeastern Missouri in the Old Lead Belt where mining has occurred since the 1700s. Past mining operations have left numerous tailings or chat deposits within the county. These tailings deposits may contain elevated levels of lead that can pose a threat to public health and the environment. Another potential source of lead commonly found in older homes is lead-based paint.

HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Reducing Child Exposure

EPA, the Missouri Department of Health (MDOH), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), recommend limiting exposure of young children to lead contaminated soil. This can be accomplished in the following ways:

- ! Children should not eat or drink or play in areas of known contamination.**
- ! Wash children's hands after playing outside and before meals.**
- ! Wash toys periodically and encourage children not to put toys in their mouths.**
- ! Vacuum and dust inside the home often to remove dust that may have lead in it.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The report containing the initial sampling data collected in Madison County, called an Expanded Site Investigation, as well as other documents are available for review at the following location during normal business hours:

Ozark Public Library
137 W. Main
Fredericktown, Missouri

If you have questions about this fact sheet, or need additional information regarding this site, please contact:

Dana Blubaugh,
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of External Programs
726 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
(913) 551-7003 or toll free at 1-800-223-0425